

**Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
Implementation**

Redding Basin Groundwater

Anderson and Enterprise Subbasins (Shasta County, CA)

Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Plan

Version: October 4, 2016

Introduction

Many of the recommended activities in this Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Plan (Plan) are informed by the outcomes of the Stakeholder Assessment (Assessment) conducted by The Center for Collaborative Policy (Center) in August 2016. The purpose of the Assessment was to identify and understand stakeholder interests and concerns through a series of individual interviews and to make recommendations for the formation of a local Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) in the Anderson and Enterprise Subbasins in Shasta County by the state-mandated deadline of June 30, 2017. This Plan provides an implementation framework for an inclusive process that meets Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements. It is a companion document to the Stakeholder Assessment Report. The Plan will be updated throughout the process to ensure an adaptive, responsive approach to stakeholder outreach and engagement.

SGMA Requirements for Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement

SGMA requires GSAs to consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater as a part of GSA formation and GSP development and implementation. Under SGMA, the GSA must do the following:

- ✓ Establish and maintain a list of interested parties and provide an explanation of how those interests will be considered in its GSA notification to the Department of Water Resources (DWR).
- ✓ Before deciding to become a GSA and after publication of notice pursuant to Government Code Section 6066, the local agency or agencies shall hold a public hearing in the county/counties overlying the basin(s).

Water Code section 10723.2 states that these interests include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) *Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:*
 - 1. *Agricultural users*
 - 2. *Domestic Well owners*
- b) *Municipal well operators.*
- c) *Public water systems.*
- d) *Local land use planning agencies.*
- e) *Environmental users of groundwater.*

- f) *Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies.*
- g) *The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.*
- h) *California Native American Tribes.*
- i) *Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.*
- j) *Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or part of a groundwater basin managed by the GSA.*

Further, as is stated in Water Code Section 10727.8, “*The GSA shall encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin prior to and during the development and implementation of the GSP.*”

DWR Recommendations for Stakeholder Engagement

Beyond what SGMA requires, DWR recommends that GSAs engage a broad range of stakeholders within the basin, both prior to making local decisions to help build trust, and to promote public acceptance and support later. Also, DWR recommends that local agencies communicate with federal and tribal representatives prior to deciding to become a GSA, as referenced in Water Code 10720.3, 10723.2, and 10723.8.

Center Recommendations for Stakeholder Engagement

In the Assessment, interview participants acknowledged the importance of informing the public in a transparent, inclusive and productive way. Additionally, interviewees emphasized that the final decision-making authority lies with the boards and councils of the GSA-eligible public agencies. Therefore, this Plan outlines ways to actively and consistently engage the managers and governing bodies of the participating agencies. It also describes an engagement strategy for the managers and governing bodies of the GSA-eligible agencies that have not participated in GSA formation thus far. The purpose of engaging those entities is to clarify whether they intend to be involved in SGMA implementation or if they would prefer the County to represent the lands in their service boundaries as **White Areas***. Finally, other affected parties named in SGMA, such as Tribes, federal agencies, mutual water companies, private water corporations, and private pumpers in the White Areas will require targeted outreach beyond the broader public engagement strategy.

**White Areas: In the event that there is an area within a high or medium priority basin that is not within the management area of another agency, the county within which that unmanaged area lies will be presumed to be the GSA for that area. These unmanaged areas are referred to as White Areas.*

Thus, this Plan articulates a differentiated approach and explicit activities to engage four broad stakeholder categories:

- 1) Managers and governing bodies of participating, GSA-eligible agencies;
- 2) Managers and governing bodies of non-participating, eligible GSA agencies;
- 3) The general public; and
- 4) Other affected parties.

Additionally, the Plan identifies a variety of communication tools that will be employed to address the distinct interests of each group and a schedule of activities that clearly outlines the timeline for Plan implementation.

This Plan will implement outreach and engagement activities in accordance with the process outline established in the Assessment Report. See Figure 1 below.



Figure 1. Process Outline/Timeline at a Glance

Participating GSA-Eligible Agencies

There are ten local agencies within the Anderson and Enterprise Subbasins that are eligible to form a GSA. Table 1 indicates the six agencies that have participated in GSA formation activities thus far.

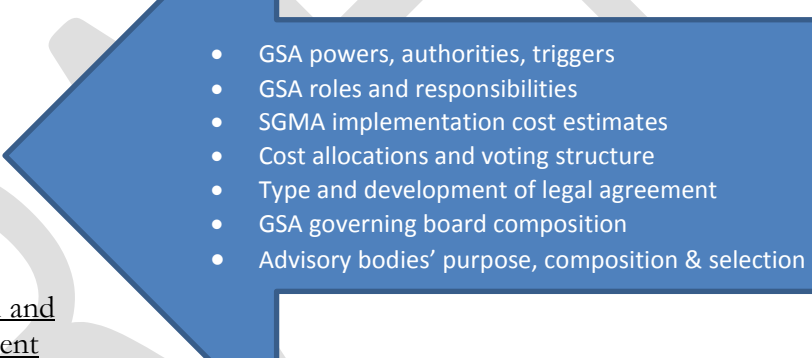
Table 1. Participating GSA-Eligible Local Agencies and Their Overlying Basins

Participating GSA-Eligible Agencies	Over Basin	
	Anderson Subbasin (groundwater basin number: 5—6.03)	Enterprise Subbasin (groundwater basin number: 5—6.04)
Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District	x	x
Bella Vista Water District		x
City of Anderson	x	x
City of Redding	x	x
Clear Creek Community Services District	x	
Shasta County	x	x

Prior to receiving facilitation services in August 2016, these six agencies formed a committee that met several times and made progress in pursuing a single, multi-agency GSA governance approach. The GSA Formation Committee (Committee) is comprised mostly of agency managers. The purpose of the Committee is to develop a proposal and legal agreement for GSA governance for the Anderson and Enterprise Subbasins. The decision-making boards and councils (governing bodies) of the participating agencies will vet, refine, and ultimately approve the proposal and the legal agreement, in coordination with the respective agencies' legal counsels.

Over the next several months, the Committee will build consensus on several key topics in order to develop and refine a governance proposal and to craft a legal agreement. The Committee will meet every 4-5 weeks. A GSA Formation Subcommittee (Subcommittee) will meet in between Committee meetings on an ad hoc basis to further develop ideas and concepts that come out of the Committee meetings. The Subcommittee will report back their activities to the larger Committee for discussion.

Approximate Schedule for GSA Formation Committee Meetings and Key Topics

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- September 27, 2016
 - October 18, 2016
 - November 15, 2016
 - December 13, 2016
 - January 10, 2017
 - February 14, 2017
 - March 14, 2017
 - April – June 2017 as needed and to prepare the Notice of Intent
- GSA powers, authorities, triggers
 - GSA roles and responsibilities
 - SGMA implementation cost estimates
 - Cost allocations and voting structure
 - Type and development of legal agreement
 - GSA governing board composition
 - Advisory bodies' purpose, composition & selection

Role of Participating GSA-Eligible Agencies' Governing Bodies

The governing bodies of the participating GSA-eligible agencies will vet and refine the governance proposal and legal agreement at regular board and council meetings. Individual GSA Formation Committee members will ensure that the topic is placed on the agenda and that adequate time is reserved at periodic governing body meetings to provide GSA formation updates and to discuss, refine, and reach agreement on the governance proposal and legal agreement. These meetings also provide an opportunity for the public to become aware and informed of GSA formation activities in the Anderson and Enterprise Subbasins. It is not clear how many times the proposal/legal agreement will require board and council input. However, the draft governance proposal will be presented to the agencies' respective governing bodies for preliminary review in October/November 2016. Each member agency will report feedback to the Committee in order to refine the governance proposal/ legal agreement. The goal is to achieve consensus on the governance proposal from the participating agencies' governing bodies by the end of December 2016 and to finalize the governance proposal and complete the legal agreement by March 2017.

Non-participating GSA-Eligible Agencies

Table 2 indicates the four agencies that have not actively participated on the GSA Formation Committee.

Table 2. Non-Participating GSA-Eligible Local Agencies and Their Overlying Basins

Non-Participating GSA- Eligible Local Agencies	Over Basin	
	Anderson Subbasin (groundwater basin number: 5—6.03)	Enterprise Subbasin (groundwater basin number: 5—6.04)
Centerville Community Services District	x	
Cottonwood Water District	x	
Igo/Ono Community Services District	x	
Western Shasta Resource Conservation District	N/A	N/A

The Center interviewed these agencies in the Assessment. Findings from the Assessment indicated that Centerville Community Services District, Cottonwood Water District, and Igo/Ono Community Services District most likely did not intend to participate in SGMA implementation. SGMA requires that the entire basin is covered by a GSA. Therefore, for agencies that choose not to become a GSA, the County becomes the default entity to represent these unmanaged areas as White Areas. It is critical for the County to gain clarity on the areas and stakeholders it will represent for SGMA implementation. Therefore, the County is engaging the Centerville Community Services District, Cottonwood Water District, and Igo/Ono Community Services District to determine if the County will represent the lands in their service areas. Igo/Ono has confirmed that it will not take an active role in SGMA implementation. The County will continue discussions with the other two agencies by coordinating with the general managers and by making presentations at these agencies' respective board meetings in October or November 2016. The goal is to resolve the question of these agencies' intended participation in SGMA implementation and for the County to be able to identify the extent and boundaries of the areas it will represent. The County will report back its progress with non-participating GSA-eligible agencies to the GSA Formation Committee.

Resource Conservation Districts have been deemed GSA-eligible agencies by the State Water Resources Control Board. However, the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (RCD) does not have water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within the Anderson and Enterprise Subbasin. The RCD collaborates with private landowners and regulatory agencies on a range of watershed planning and implementation efforts. Therefore, the RCD has indicated that it has potential interest in partnering with the GSA on GSP development and implementation activities in the future.

The General Public

To educate the public and build acceptance for SGMA implementation, the public will have various opportunities to learn about SGMA and to provide feedback on the GSA governance proposal. The public can attend Board of Supervisors meetings, city council meetings, and water district board meetings to receive regular updates and to comment on GSA formation. Additionally, there will be a public open house in December 2016 following the preliminary vetting of the GSA governance

proposal at the participating GSA-eligible agencies' respective governing body meetings. The purpose of the open house is to provide general information about SGMA, to make the draft GSA governance proposal available, and to receive public input on the proposal. The feedback from the public will be utilized to further refine the governance proposal. Additionally, before deciding to become a GSA and after publication of a notice pursuant to Government Code Section 6066, the local agency shall hold a public hearing, as required by SGMA.

Approximate Schedule for Public Events

- Public Open House – Early December 2016
 - The purpose of the open house is to provide general information about SGMA, to make the draft GSA governance proposal available to the public, and to receive public input on local SGMA implementation activities.
- Public Hearing – by May 15, 2017
 - Before deciding to become a GSA and after publication of a notice pursuant to Government Code Section 6066, the local agency shall hold a public hearing, as required by SGMA.

Other Affected Parties

As noted on page 1 of this Plan, SGMA requires GSAs to consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. The GSA must establish and maintain a list of interested parties and provide an explanation of how those interests will be considered in its GSA notification to DWR. The Center and the County have compiled an initial list of interested parties including but not limited to the following, as required by Water Code Section 10723.2:

- k) *Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:*
 - 1. *Agricultural users*
 - 2. *Domestic Well owners*
- l) *Municipal well operators.*
- m) *Public water systems.*
- n) *Local land use planning agencies.*
- o) *Environmental users of groundwater.*
- p) *Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies.*
- q) *The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.*
- r) *California Native American Tribes.*
- s) *Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.*
- t) *Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or part of a groundwater basin managed by the GSA.*

The Center will coordinate with the GSA Formation Committee to further develop and maintain the interested party list.

Additionally, the Center will coordinate and document targeted outreach and engagement activities with all beneficial users in the Anderson and Enterprise Subbasins. The County intends to establish a representative advisory committee to advise the Board of Supervisors on SGMA implementation in the County managed areas. Advisory Committee members will reflect and represent all beneficial

uses and users in those areas, including, but not limited to, agricultural users, domestic well owners, private water corporations, mutual water companies, and disadvantaged communities. The Center will work with the GSA Formation Committee to conduct individualized outreach and engagement with Tribes in and adjacent to the Anderson and Enterprise Subbasins.

Communication Tools/Media Campaign

Traditional and web-based communication tools will be used to keep stakeholders informed and engaged during the GSA Formation process.

Print Media/Newspaper Articles

The Center will work with the GSA Formation Committee to develop articles/press releases. Subsequently, the Center will coordinate with local media outlets in Table 3 below to publish a 3-4 part series of articles covering the following topics and approximate timeline:

- What is SGMA?
 - Feature Story #1: published in November 2016 before the public open house to provide background on SGMA and to conduct broad outreach for the upcoming event
- What is a GSA and what is a GSP?
 - Feature Story #2: published following the open house reporting on the event and providing more information about a GSA and GSP
- Focus on Local SGMA Implementation:
 - Feature Story #3: Report on the governance approach (proposal content) and who decides on GSA formation, and/or
 - Feature Story #4: Report on GSA agency formation and publicize public hearing

Table 3. Media Contacts

	Publication Name	Format	Email
1	A News Café	online	donig.aneewscafe@gmail.com
2	East Valley Times	online	Judy@eastvalleytimes.com
3	Record Searchlight	paper/online	rrsedit@redding.com

Newsletters and Participating, GSA-Eligible Local Agencies Websites

Participating, GSA-eligible local agencies will use individual agency websites, newsletters, and social media (where applicable) to provide general SGMA implementation information and to announce board and council meetings where GSA Formation/SGMA is discussed.

Interested Party List Updates

The Center and GSA Formation Committee will collect the names and contact information of interested parties at the open house and public hearing, at a minimum. Through targeted outreach, the Center, in coordination with participating agencies, will build and refine the interested party list.

Educational Materials

DWR has developed various educational materials about SGMA and GSA/GSP development. In addition to DWR materials, academic institutions and foundations have published useful reports about SGMA implementation that will inform GSA formation in the Anderson and Enterprise Subbasins. While not comprehensive, Table 4 lists some essential SGMA educational and reference materials.

Table 4. Educational and Reference Documents for GSA Formation

Educational/Reference Document Titles	Publishing Entity	Date/Year of Publication
Actions for Local Agencies to Follow When Deciding to Become or Form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/GSA_Notification_Requirements_v2_2016-01-06.pdf	DWR	January 6, 2016
Groundwater Sustainability Agency Frequently Asked Questions http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/DWR_GSA_FAQ_2016-01-07.pdf	DWR	January 7, 2016
Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Emergency Regulations Guide http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/GSP_Final_Regs_Guidebook.pdf	DWR	July 2016
Collaborating for Success: Stakeholder Engagement for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation http://waterfoundation.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/SGMA_Stakeholder_Engagement_White_Paper.pdf	Community Water Center Clean Water Fund Union of Concerned Scientist	July 2015
Designing Effective Groundwater Sustainability Agencies: Criteria for Evaluation of Local Governance Options https://www.law.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/CLEE_GroundwaterGovernance_2016-03-08.pdf	Wheeler Water Institute Berkeley Law	2016
Know Your Options: A Guide to Forming Groundwater Sustainability Agencies http://californiawaterfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/CF_GSA_Guide_09.30.15_web.pdf	California Water Foundation	September 2015

Educational/Reference Document Titles	Publishing Entity	Date/Year of Publication
The 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: A Handbook to Understanding and Implementing the Law http://www.watereducation.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/groundwatermgthandbook_oct2015.pdf	Water Education Foundation	October 2015

Schedule of Activities

Table 5 illustrates the estimated schedule of all stakeholder outreach and engagement activities described in the Plan.

Table 5. Schedule of Activities

Activities	Description	Schedule
Participating GSA-Eligible Local Agencies		
GSA Formation Committee and Subcommittee Meetings	The Committee will build consensus on several key topics in order to develop and refine a governance proposal and to craft a legal agreement. The Committee will meet every 4-5 weeks. A GSA Formation Subcommittee (Subcommittee) will meet in between Committee meetings on an ad hoc basis to further develop ideas and concepts that come out of the Committee meetings. The Subcommittee will report back their activities to the larger Committee for discussion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>September 27, 2016</u> • <u>October 18, 2016</u> • <u>November 15, 2016</u> • <u>December 13, 2016</u> • <u>January 10, 2017</u> • <u>February 14, 2017</u> • <u>March 14, 2017</u> • <u>April – June 2017</u>: as needed and to prepare the Notice of Intent
Meetings of Participating Agencies' Governing Boards and Councils	The governing bodies of participating GSA-eligible agencies will discuss, refine, and reach agreement on the governance proposal and legal agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary review of governance proposal October/November 2016. • Achieve consensus on the governance proposal by the end of December 2016 • Finalize the governance proposal and complete

Activities	Description	Schedule
		legal agreements by March 2017.
Non-Participating GSA-Eligible Local Agencies		
Centerville Community Services District and Cottonwood Water District Board of Directors' Meetings	The County will coordinate with the general managers and make presentations at these agencies respective board meetings. The goal is to resolve the question of these agencies' intended participation in SGMA implementation and for the County to identify the extent and boundaries of the areas it will represent.	October/November 2016
Coordination with Western Shasta RCD	The Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (RCD) is an eligible agency. The RCD has indicated potential interest in partnering with the GSA on GSP development and implementation activities in the future.	Ongoing Coordination
Public Events		
Open House	The purpose of the open house is to provide general information about SGMA, to make available the draft GSA governance proposal, and to receive public feedback on the proposal.	Early December 2016
Public Hearing	Before deciding to become a GSA and after publication of a notice pursuant Government Code Section 6066, the local agency shall hold a public hearing, as required by SGMA.	By May 15, 2017
Participating GSA-Eligible Agencies' Board of Directors, City Council, and Board of Supervisors Meetings	These meetings provide an opportunity for the public to become aware and informed of GSA formation activities in the Anderson and Enterprise Subbasins.	Periodically (when Agendized) October 2016-March 2017
Targeted Outreach to Other Affected Parties		

Activities	Description	Schedule
Establish, Maintain, and Update Interested Party List	Establish, maintain, and update a list of interested parties and provide an explanation of how those interests will be considered in its GSA notification to DWR.	Ongoing
Targeted Outreach to all beneficial users in Anderson and Enterprise Subbasins and Tribes in the Subbasins and adjacent basins	The County plans to establish a representative advisory committee in to advise the Board of Supervisors on SGMA implementation in the County managed areas. The Center will work with the GSA Formation Committee to conduct individualized outreach and engagement with Tribes in and adjacent to the Anderson and Enterprise Subbasins.	Ongoing
Media Campaign		
3-4 Feature Stories comprising a series distributed to the media contact list (Table 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is SGMA? <i>To provide background on SGMA and to conduct broad outreach for the upcoming public event.</i> What is a GSA and what is a GSP? <i>Report on open house and provide more information about what is a GSA and GSP.</i> Focus on Local SGMA Implementation <i>Report on the governance approach (proposal content) and who decides on GSA formation.</i> 	<p>Feature Story #1: published in November 2016 before open house</p> <p>Feature Story #2: published following the open house</p> <p>Feature Story #3: Published when consensus is reached on governance proposal, and/or</p> <p>Feature Story #4: GSA Published when agency is formed and to publicize public hearing</p>
Existing Websites, Newsletters, and Social Media (where applicable)	Participating, GSA-eligible local agencies will use existing websites, newsletters and social media tools to post general SGMA implementation information and to announce board and council meetings where GSA Formation/SGMA is discussed.	Ongoing
Make available educational materials and reference documents to	DWR and other entities have developed various educational materials about SGMA and GSA/GSP development that the Center will make	Ongoing

Activities	Description	Schedule
appropriate stakeholder groups	available and distribute, when appropriate.	



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